



## City of Lawton 2021 Extra Mile Heroes

### Adriene Davis



Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Adriene Davis came to Lawton, Okla. the way many people do via the military and after 30 plus years, Lawton is home.

Davis is wife to a retired veteran, mother to one, mother-in-law and nana to two loving fur babies. She was primarily raised by her grandmother who instilled in her a passion for cooking and for taking care of others.

This love for feeding people showed in many aspects of her life from feeding soldiers too far from home for the holidays, children in Lawton Public Schools during her time as a cafeteria manager, and eventually in the start of Hungry Hearts Feeding Ministry.

Hungry Hearts was founded in 2015 when Davis saw a young man begging for food one day with his family sleeping in a car in a store parking lot. This encounter opened her eyes and the idea for Hungry Hearts was born. Hungry Hearts mission is to help put a stop to the pain of hunger in our community by providing resources to those in need, promoting growth and sustainability. Hungry Hearts provides free meals, and groceries as needed, in the Lawton area to the elderly, homeless, our veterans, and anyone in need of just a little help to get by. They also provide personal hygiene items and even a prayer for those that ask. Their goal is to be a hand up in the community. The organization often collaborates with other organizations in the community because as Davis often says, "This is not an 'I' thing. We have to take care of our community." Known to many as 'mama', Davis is often described by others as having the sweetest soul and those who know her, know they are blessed to have her.

In 2019, a donor gave the old American Legion Building on 11th Street to the organization, but it needed a little TLC and new kitchen equipment. With the hard work of Davis and Hungry Hearts, the local nonprofit unveiled its renovated building to the public in September 2021, after nearly two years of hard work and dedication. Donations can now be picked up and dropped off at this location, and they have a full kitchen they can fully utilize. The building is also complete with two hydroponic towers that allow volunteers to grow produce year-around.

Not only is her plate full with Hungry Hearts, but she also regularly volunteers around the community.

## Barbara Curry



Originally from West Philadelphia, Barbara Curry and her family have called Lawton home since 1995.

Barbara served in the United States Army Reserves, which is where she met her husband, Leon Curry. She and her husband have 2 sons and 4 beautiful grandchildren

Sunday, Oct. 20, 1985, Barbara received Christ as her Savior at Ebenezer AME in Fort Washington, Maryland.

Barbara ran a successful home daycare for 10 years.

With a huge heart for others, Barbara began volunteering at the young age of 15 in Philadelphia as a candy striper. This initial act led to many more years dedicated to serving and helping others. Barbara began volunteering full-time just about everywhere she could make a difference in someone else's life.

Starting with every nursing home in Lawton, she also dedicated her service to church, Comanche County Memorial Hospital as a Patient Advocate, Hospice of SW Oklahoma, Great Plains Chapter of the American Red Cross as a caseworker and Action Disaster Team Leader, Aspire Home Health and Hospice, the Lawton Chamber of Commerce. She spearheaded The Senior Preparedness Project for Lawton and surrounding areas, and often gives presentations at the Center for Creative Living for the elderly. Her lively and engaging seminars consist of teaching seniors life-saving skills such as disaster preparedness, fire prevention, and creative action plans. She proudly volunteers as a delivery driver with the Center for Creative Living delivering meals to shut-in seniors.

Barbara is a member of Lawton Business Women, serves on the Executive Board for the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, and the Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra. She has been involved with Lawton Chamber of Commerce Red Coat Ambassadors, Leadership Lawton, a board member of the Armed Services YMCA, a loaned executive officer for the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma, and the United Way Community Investment Committee. As a member of the Lawton Run-Hers, she has been involved with community sponsored events such as The Spirit of Survival Run and Three-Mile Thursday.

Barbara E. Curry is the founder and CEO of the WOMEN that VOTE.

Barbara's tireless giving to her community has not gone unnoticed. Her community service awards include: American Red Cross Volunteer Of The Year, Comanche County Woman of the Year, American Red Cross Hope Award, Red Coat of the Quarter ward, The Woman of the Year at the Women of Color Expo, the Sheila O. Lee Volunteer Of The Year Award from the Lawton-Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Service Award from The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.

## Wyonna Alberty



Wyonna Alberty was born into a military family at Ft. Sill Station Hospital. She is retired from Civil Service and now lives in Ward 5. She is a four-time cancer survivor – 2014, 2016, 2019 and 2021.

Alberty's past volunteer services include: Cast member for 25 years for the Holy City Passion Play - Angel and Simone; Douglass Elementary Head Start – Chairperson of Parent Committee (1985-1986). Motivated parents to be involved with children education by organizing events which encouraged family participation. Created mortars for graduation of children; Helped with fundraisers for KK Kickers and Clogging Sensations of Elgin; Member PTA at Cleveland Elementary School; Diversity Committee at Fort Sill- Chair Cultural Events; Chairperson for

events for Organizational Day during employment at Reynolds Army Hospital; Appointed by Reynolds Army Hospital to check license tags of cars in the parking lot and she was appointed water bottle girl just in case of a hospital fire; One of the original members on the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women- 1989 and was Chairperson of the Citizen of the Month Committee; She received an award for tenure on Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women under Mayor Ted Marley; Combined Federal Campaign representative for Reynolds Army Hospital; Volunteer caregiver for Southwest Oklahoma Hospice and Faith Hospice and Volunteer Chaplain for Faith Hospice; Volunteered at Ten Oaks to give Words of Encouragement during memorial service; Mayor Fitch presented her an award as one of the longest hospice volunteers; Portrayed Big Mama and Clara in the play "I Told the Storm" presented at McMahon Auditorium; 1991-2021, First African American President in the history for over 70 years of VFW 5263 Auxiliary. Past Chaplain for VFW District 14 Auxiliary and 5263 Auxiliary; One of the judges for the VFW "Voice of Democracy."

Alberty's current volunteer services include: member of the City of Lawton's Race Relations Commission; provides clothing, food, furniture, and appliances to any one in need - out of her personal funds; Licensed (2001) and Ordained (2013) Evangelist; helps in distribution for Kaleo Foundation for Veterans; Chaplain for VFW District 14 Auxiliary and 3-year trustee for VFW 5263 Auxiliary; Co-Coordinator for Wreaths Across America - Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin; Mediator for Comanche County Courthouse - one to three times a week; Provides cooked meals for shut-ins and homeless; Provides for overseas ministry for food, clothing, and medical; She also provides socks, gloves, briefs, pads, and snacks for veterans in retirement homes or nursing homes; Coordinator of Angel Tree Ministry and Turkey Minister for Bethlehem Baptist Church; Coordinate youth in Veteran's Day observation by having them to do a presentation for the community to attend free of charge.